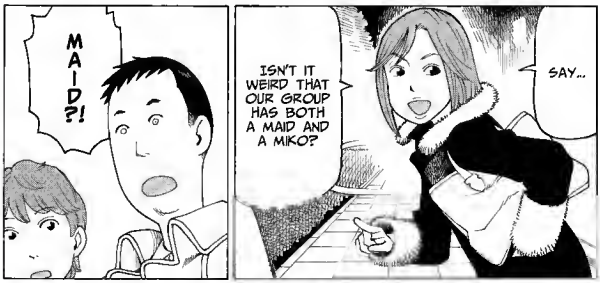
CHAPTER 128 TIME BOMB

SIGN: JAPANESE ITALIAN BOW AND HAMMER
本板中学校
3年B組同窓会
様
OKAY, THEN.
IT'S TIME!
和風イタリアン
弩槌屋
SIGN: MOTOITA MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS 3-B REUNION, RESERVED
LET'S GET THE MOTOITA MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS 3-B REUNION STARTED!
WA HA HA HA HA
ARASHIYAMA, WILL YOU WATCH THE TIME FOR US?
OH!

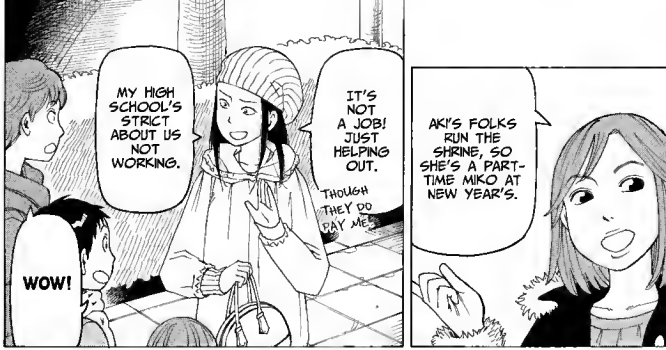
UH, SO I MEANT TO HAVE THE CLASS PRESIDENT DO THE FIRST TOAST...
...BUT WE COULDN'T GET AHOLD OF HIM, SO HE'S NOT HERE.
SO IT FALLS TO ME, MICHIBATA.
RAISE YOUR CUPS!
LOTS OF PEOPLE HERE.
WELL, IT WAS A TIGHT-KNIT CLASS.
...HUH?!
HUH?
HUH?!
WELL... WE DIDN'T DISLIKE EACH OTHER.
BUT IT WAS VERY CLIQUEY.
IT WAS?!
HASHIMOTO'S GROUP REALLY HATED EVERYONE AROUND MATSUNO.
AND ISHIHARA, TOO...

I GUESS I SAW A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD THAN YOU.
I DUNNO.
HA HA HA HA!


MAID?!
ISN'T IT WEIRD THAT OUR GROUP HAS BOTH A MAID AND A MIKO?
SAY...

IT'S A NORMAL CAFE, JUST INSIDE THE MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT.
I BET TAMO-CHAN'S IMAGINING SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
THAT'S SO OUT OF CHARAC-TER!
HOTORI'S WORKING AT A MAID CAFE.

BUT I LOST MY NERVE.
I ALMOST WENT IN ONCE!
I KNOW THAT PLACE!!
OH!!
THEY SAY THERE'S A REALLY WEIRD MAID THERE!
YEAH.
SO I GET THE MAID, BUT... MIKO?
IF SOMETHING'S WEIRD, IT'S DEFINITELY ARASHIYAMA.
HEY!
SURE THAT WEIRD MAID ISN'T YOU, HOTORI?

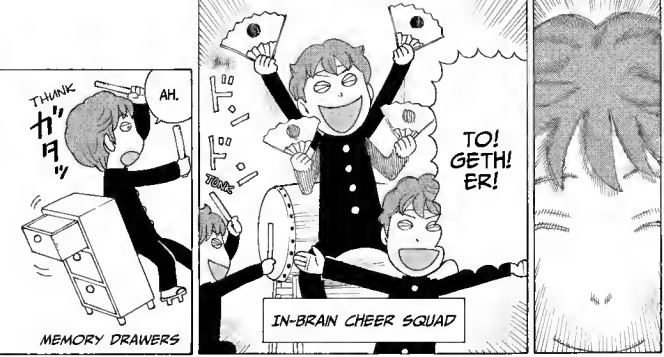

WOW!
MY HIGH SCHOOL'S STRICT ABOUT US NOT WORKING.
IT'S NOT A JOB! JUST HELPING OUT.
THOUGH THEY DO PAY ME.
AKI'S FOLKS RUN THE SHRINE, SO SHE'S A PART-TIME MIKO AT NEW YEAR'S.

FINALLY!
OH!
AKI YASHI-RO!
YOUR NAME'S THE SAME.
YA-SHIRO-SAN?
THE SHRINE NEAR US?
"WOW"?
THE SHRINE'S RIGHT NEAR YOUR PLACE.

IT JUST CLICKED INTO PLACE.
YEAH... GUESS WE WERE SEEING A DIFFERENT WORLD.
YOU NEVER NOTICED?!
QUITE THE TIME LAG.

YOU'RE A MIKO AND A TIME TRAVELER?
...WE MADE A TIME MACHINE, RIGHT?
SPEAK-ING OF TIME...
HUH? THE WHAT?
THE TIME CAPSULE!
SLAP
バシ
ARGH, YOU MORON!
THAT NEVER HAPPENED.
WE WERE GONNA OPEN IT WHEN WE WERE FORTY. WROTE NOTES TO OUR FUTURE SELVES.
WAIT... MAYBE WE DID?

THE WHOLE IDEA WAS THAT WE ALL TAKE PART.
WELL, MY WHOLE THIRD YEAR WAS FLAWLESS.
UH... YOU MEAN YOU HAD PERFECT ATTEN-DANCE?
I DON'T REMEM-BER IT, EITHER.
WERE YOU OUT THAT DAY?
YOU WERE LATE A LOT.
RIGHT, RIGHT! SENSEI USED TO TELL HER "WATCH THE TIME!" PRACTICALLY EVERY DAY.
YOU WERE ON TIME TODAY!
NICE.
BECAUSE I CAME WITH SANADA.
OHHH? YOU CAME TOGETH-ER?
LIKE, TOGETHER TOGETHER?
NO!
KNOCK IT OFF.


THUNK
ガタッ
AH.
MEMORY DRAWERS
ドドドドド
TONK
TO! GETH! ER!
IN-BRAIN CHEER SQUAD

ONLY FOUR OR FIVE OF US LEFT, AND HE CAME IN...
THAT'S RIGHT! IN CLASS AFTER SCHOOL.

TAMO-CHAN GAVE ME THAT PAPER.
I RE-MEMBER NOW!!

HUH? NOW?!
DOESN'T MATTER WHAT, JUST WRITE SOMETHING.

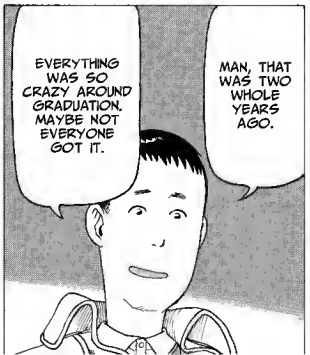
WE'RE MAKING A TIME CAPSULE FOR GRADUATION, TO BE OPENED WHEN WE'RE FORTY.
...ACTING LIKE SOMEONE TOLD HIM TO.

DID WE LEAVE YOU OUT?
I STILL DON'T REMEMBER THIS AT ALL.

SOME ESSAY PAPER FROM THE SCHOOL SHOP AND AN ENVELOPE.
STICKY SAUCE
Hiroyuki Sawada

I REMEMBER NOW!
IT'S WEIRD ONLY THE TWO US REMEMBER. I'M GONNA ASK MICHIBATA.

LINDA, MAYBE, BUT WE'D NEVER HAVE LEFT HOTORI OUT.
YOUVE LEFT ME OUT?! HOW OFTEN?!


EVERYTHING WAS SO CRAZY AROUND GRADUATION. MAYBE NOT EVERYONE GOT IT.
MAN, THAT WAS TWO WHOLE YEARS AGO.

SEE!
THE CLASS PRESIDENT ASKED ME.

I BET IF WE OPENED IT, HOTORI AND LINDA WOULD BE IN THERE, TOO.
MAYBE.
WELL, SEE YA!

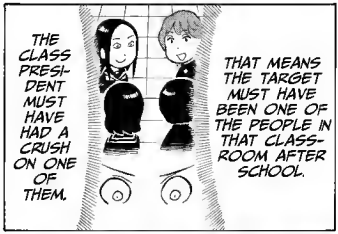
IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

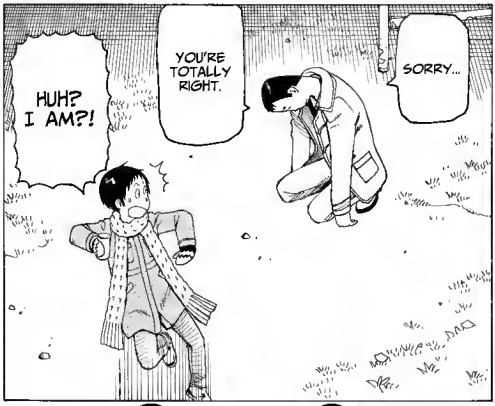
DO I LOOK LIKE THE TYPE TO LET A HUNCH LIE FALLOW THAT LONG?

DOING A TIME CAPSULE FOR GRADUATION WOULD BE A BIG DEAL.
THERE'S NO WAY I WOULDN'T REMEMBER.
WELL... WHEN WE'RE FORTY...

YEAH.
THANKS FOR COMING WITH. YOU OKAY ON TIME?
I'M NOT LEAVING TILL IT MAKES SENSE.
THOSE WHO REMEMBER THE TIME CAPSULE EVEN KNOW THE KIND OF PAPER THEY USED.
BUT THOSE WHO DON'T REMEMBER CAN RECALL ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.
?
WITHOUT SOME SORT OF AMNESIA, SUCH A SITUATION IS IMPOSSIBLE.
THERE MUST BE A TRICK!

BUT THEN AKI WOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO BRING IT UP. THOSE INVOLVED WOULD BE SWORN TO SECRECY.
...WAS CARRIED OUT IN SECRET....
IF ONLY A SELECT FEW WERE CHOSEN FOR THE CAPSULE, AND THE PLAN...
IN OTHER WORDS...
...THE CASE OF THE TIME CAPSULE...
...SUGGESTS IT WAS IMPULSIVE, THOUGHT UP ON THE SPOT.
THE USE OF ESSAY PAPER FROM THE SCHOOL SHOP...
...FROM SOMEONE THE PERP HAD A CRUSH ON! WELL?!
...WAS A PHONEY EVENT DESIGNED PURELY TO GET A HAND-WRITTEN NOTE...


THE CLASS PRESIDENT MUST HAVE HAD A CRUSH ON ONE OF THEM.
THAT MEANS THE TARGET MUST HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE PEOPLE IN THAT CLASSROOM AFTER SCHOOL.



B

SCOLD HIM, "YOU DIDN'T DO THE CLASS PRESIDENT ANY FAVORS!"

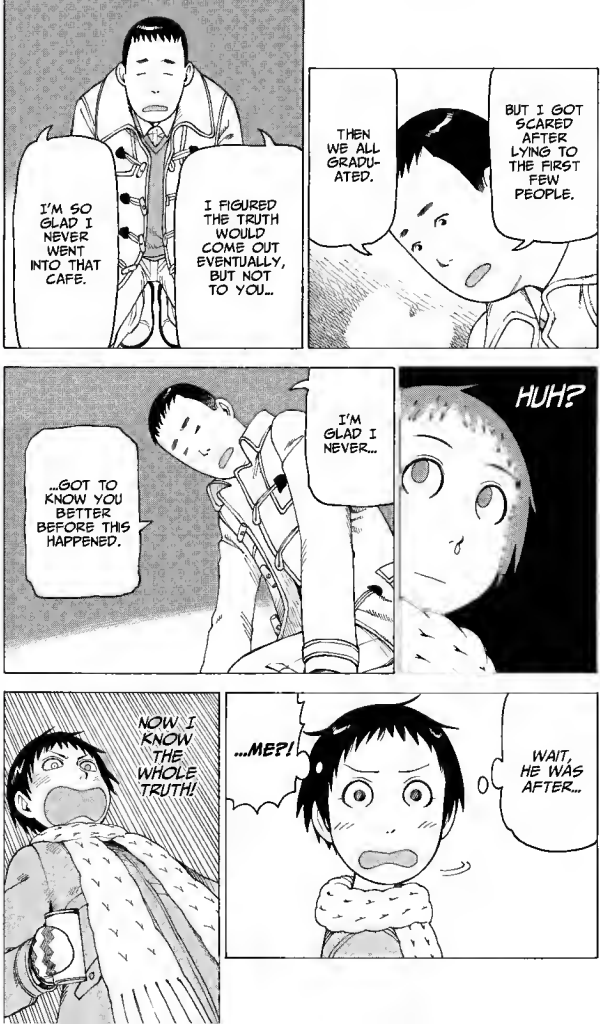
TURN TO PANEL ONE OF THE NEXT PAGE.

A

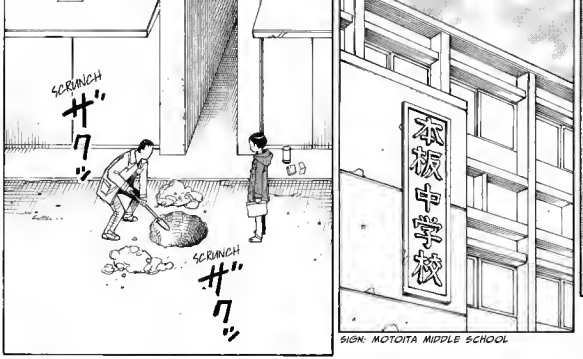
SAY SOOTHINGLY, "YOU WERE JUST USED BY THE CLASS PRESIDENT."

TURN TO PANEL ONE OF THE NEXT PAGE.

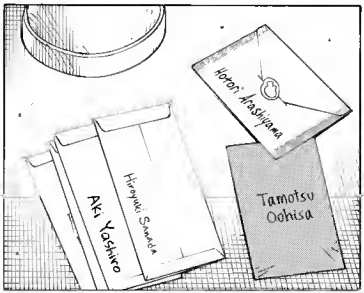
HE'S THE PERP?!
WAIT...
YOU...
I'M SORRY.
I DID IT ON IMPULSE.
OHHH, HE BLAMED THE CLASS PRESIDENT BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM.
CRAP. WHAT NOW?!
"YOU'RE THE MASTER-MIND!"
WE ALREADY KNOW THAT.
"WE AREN'T MACHINES!"
WRONG GENRE.
I THOUGHT IF I GOT YASHIRO'S CREW ON BOARD...
...IT'D SPREAD THROUGH THE CLASS, AND WE'D REALLY MAKE A TIME CAPSULE.
AND THEN...
...I'D GET THE ONE I WAS AFTER.
IN THE FUTURE, WE'D DIG FOR IT...
...AND NOT BE ABLE TO FIND IT.
YOU THOUGHT FARTHER AHEAD THAN I EXPECTED.

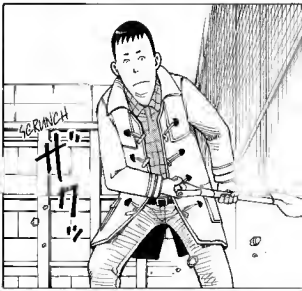

I'M SO GLAD I NEVER WENT INTO THAT CAFE.
I FIGURED THE TRUTH WOULD COME OUT EVENTUALLY, BUT NOT TO YOU...
THEN WE ALL GRADUATED.
BUT I GOT SCARED AFTER LYING TO THE FIRST FEW PEOPLE.
...GOT TO KNOW YOU BETTER BEFORE THIS HAPPENED.
I'M GLAD I NEVER...
HUH?
NOW I KNOW THE WHOLE TRUTH!
...ME?!
WAIT, HE WAS AFTER...

THIS GUY...
...WANTED MY HAND-WRITING SO BADLY...
...THAT HE MADE UP A FAKE TIME CAPSULE.
IT'S STRANGE...
I CORRECTLY DEDUCED THE TRUTH...
...BUT IT DOESN'T FEEL SO GOOD.



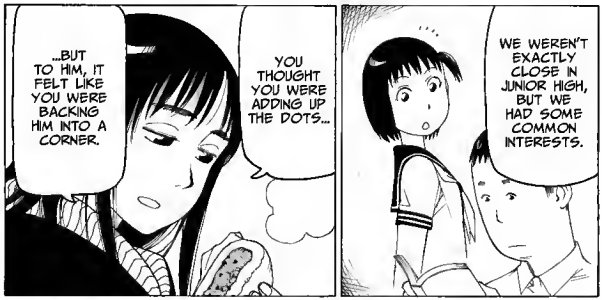
SIGN: MOTOITA MIDDLE SCHOOL





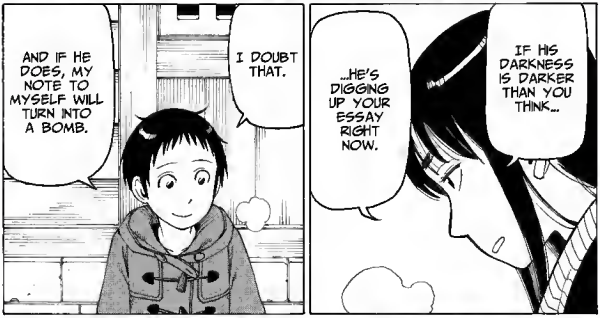
FOOMP
どさっ
THE TIME CAPSULE IS REAL, AFTER ALL.
WE'LL DIG IT UP WHEN WE'RE FORTY.
ドン TAP
ドン TAP
ドン TAP
THANK YOU.
ARASHI-YAMA.

JUST THOUGHT I'D PLAY DETECTIVE WITH OOHISA-KUN.
...KINDA CAUGHT MY ATTENTION.
THE WHOLE MEMORY THING...

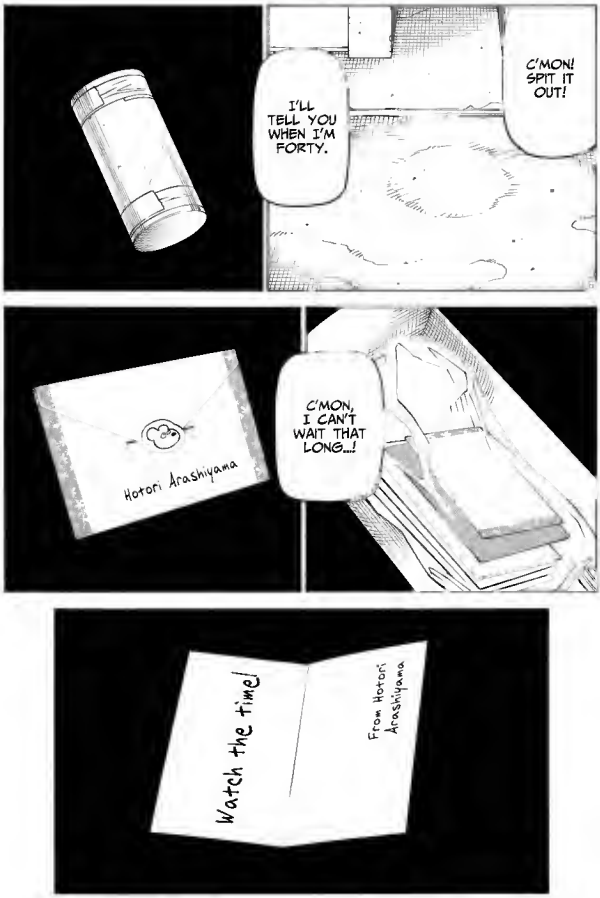

...BUT TO HIM, IT FELT LIKE YOU WERE BACKING HIM INTO A CORNER.
YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE ADDING UP THE DOTS...
WE WEREN'T EXACTLY CLOSE IN JUNIOR HIGH, BUT WE HAD SOME COMMON INTERESTS.

TELL ME ABOUT IT.
TOO NICE FOR SUCH ROMANTIC GESTURES.
BUT I THINK HE SECRETLY WANTED TO CONFESS.

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO REALIZE THAT YOUR BEING EASY TO LIKE MAKES PEOPLE FALL IN LOVE SOMETIMES.
I MEAN YOU.


AND IF HE DOES, MY NOTE TO MYSELF WILL TURN INTO A BOMB.
I DOUBT THAT.
...HE'S DIGGING UP YOUR ESSAY RIGHT NOW.
IF HIS DARKNESS IS DARKER THAN YOU THINK...

NO, IT WASN'T INTENTIONAL. JUST IN HINDSIGHT...
YOU WROTE SOMETHING CLEVER?
OH?


I'LL TELL YOU WHEN I'M FORTY.
C'MON! SPIT IT OUT!
Hotori Arashiyama
C'MON, I CAN'T WAIT THAT LONG...!
Watch the time!
From Hotori Arashiyama

CHAPTER 128 / END